



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



Media Contact: USDA-NASS West Virginia Field Office, Charleston, WV 25305, or call
1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

April 21, 2006

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Commercial red meat production during March 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds, the same as last year. This is 13 percent above the February 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 589,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from March 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,078 pounds, was up 127 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 124,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 290 pounds, was up 45 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES -- Commercial red meat production totaled 4.11 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in March 2005.

Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.85 million head, up 5 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,200 head, down 13 percent from March 2005. The average live weight was 42 pounds above last year, at 370 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.23 million head, 3 percent above March 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249,700 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2006 commercial red meat production was 11.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up slightly.

March 2005 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

March 2006 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.nass.usda.gov.